



SERVICE OF THE WORD FOR
THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
APRIL 25, 2021

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSES ARE IN **BOLD** TYPE



PRELUDE

WELCOME

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ, let us give thanks for the gift of Baptism.

We thank you, risen Christ, for these waters where you make us new, leading us from death to life, from tears of sorrow to songs of joy.

We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us in the grace-filled waters in which we are born anew.

Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear. Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness. Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.

Make us one, risen Christ. Cleanse our hearts. Shower us with life.

To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of Almighty God, now and forever.

Amen.



1 My Shep - herd, you sup - ply my need; most ho - ly is your name.
2 When I walk through the shades of death, your pres-ence is my stay;
3 The sure pro - vi - sions of my God at - tend me all my days;



In pas - tures fresh you make me feed, be - side the liv - ing stream.
one word of your sup - port - ing breath drives all my fears a - way.
oh, may your house be my a - bode and all my work be praise.



You bring my wan - d'ring spir - it back when I for - sake your ways,
Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my ta - ble spread;
Here would I find a set - tled rest, while oth - ers go and come;



and lead me, for your mer - cy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.
my cup with bless - ings o - ver - flows, your oil a - noints my head.
no more a strang - er or a guest, but like a child at home.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

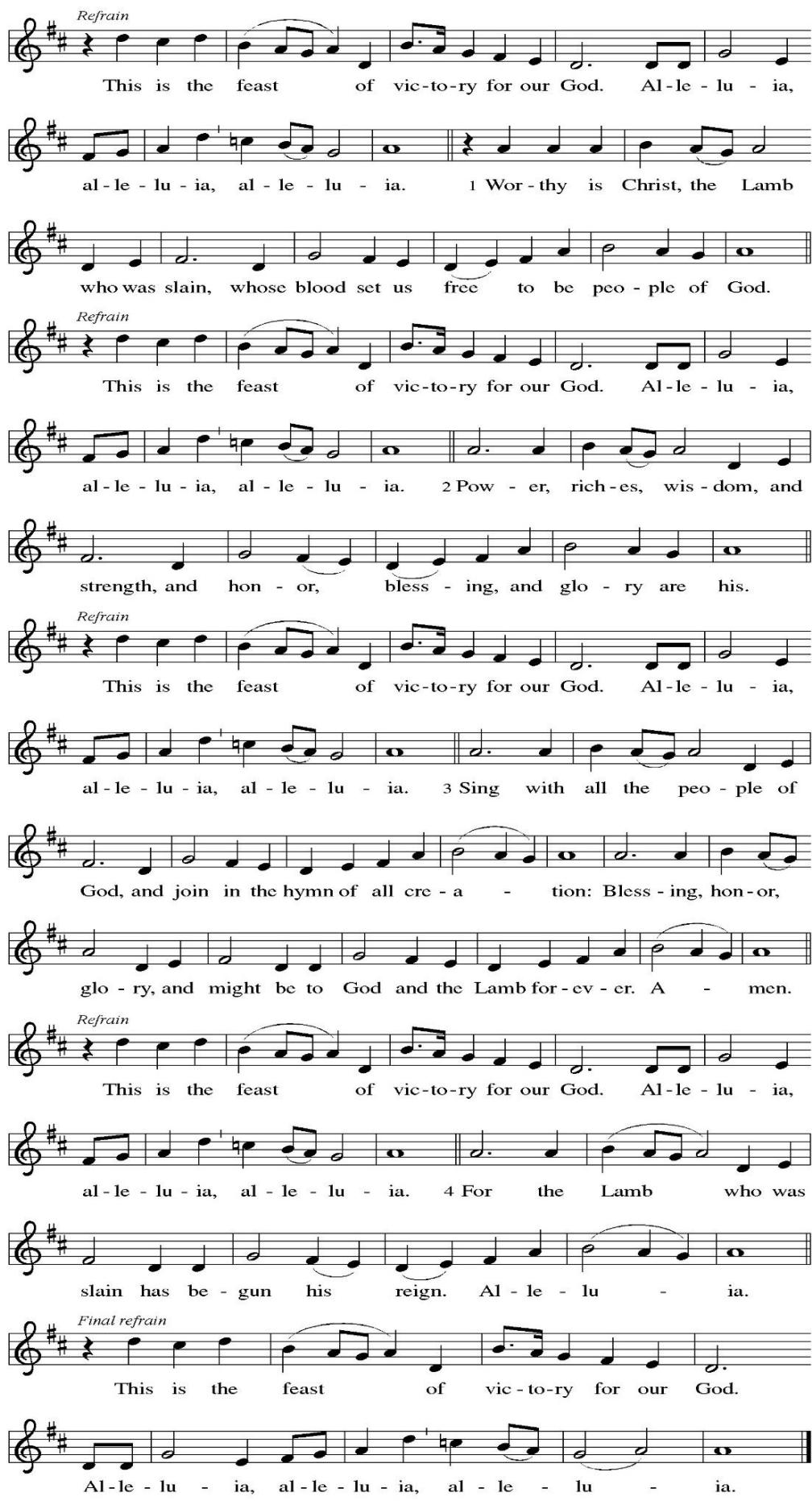
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE

"This is the Feast"

Refrain



This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.

Refrain

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

4 For the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Alleluia, alleluia.

Final refrain

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray together.

O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST LESSON

Acts 4:1-12

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

While Peter and John were speaking to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees came to them,² much annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming that in Jesus there is the resurrection of the dead.³ So they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening.⁴ But many of those who heard the word believed; and they numbered about five thousand.

⁵The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem,⁶ with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family.⁷ When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?”⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders,⁹ if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed,¹⁰ let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead.¹¹ This Jesus is ‘the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.’¹² There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.”

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 23

¹The Lord is my shepherd;

I shall not be in want.

²**The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.**

³You restore my soul, O Lord, and guide me along right pathways for your name’s sake.

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;**
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,**
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

A reading from First John.

¹⁶We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us - and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? ¹⁸Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²²and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. ²³And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (*Stand*)



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
 words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel according to John, from the 10th chapter. Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹¹"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away - and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“The King of Love My Shepherd Is”

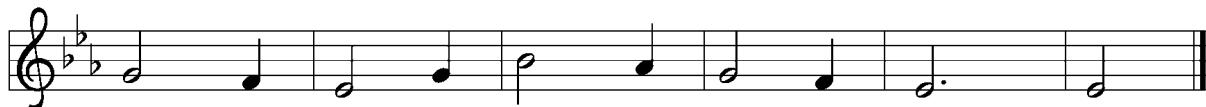
ELW 502



1 The King of love my shep - herd is, whose good - ness
 2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my ran - somed
 3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but yet in
 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear



fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
 soul he lead - eth and, where the ver - dant
 love he sought me, and on his shoul - der
 Lord, be - side me, thy rod and staff my



I am his and he is mine for - ev - er.
 pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
 gent - ly laid, and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.
 com - fort still; thy cross be - fore to guide me.

5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;
 thine unction grace bestoweth;
 and, oh, what transport of delight
 from thy pure chalice floweth!

6 And so, through all the length of days,
 thy goodness faileth never.
 Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
 within thy house forever.

NICENE CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith, using the words of the Nicene Creed.

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,

God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the \dagger resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

A brief silence.

Loving Shepherd, you know your own and your own know you. Your voice calls us to your loving embrace.

Strengthen your church throughout the world that we bear witness to your expansive love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Gracious Shepherd, you are generous with the gifts of goodness and mercy. Restore your creation so that cities and towns, countryside and wilderness, may abound with life. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Hope-giving Shepherd, the nations and peoples are your heritage. Place into the hearts of all leaders and rulers the passion to serve. Destroy any desire to overpower others and give leaders joy in lifting up the lowly. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Abiding Shepherd, your love flows as we reach out to those around us. Move us with your Spirit, so that we lay down our lives for the sake of those in need. Heal those who are in need, especially, Bill, Steve, Scott, Steven, Jackie, Vicky, Julie, Margaret, Kay, Yvonne, Eddie, Bea, Jack, Eric, Mary, Frank, Bill, Madeline, Earl, Barbara, Steven, Kathy, and Ted. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Saving Shepherd, you restore us to wholeness. Help our community in our life together and give us vigor as a people of faith. Amid challenges and opportunities, fill us anew with you Holy Spirit. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Eternal Shepherd, you hold us securely in your loving hands. In the assurance of resurrection hope, we remember our loved ones who have died in you. Bring us, with them, to dwell in your house forever. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF PEACE

Our Lord Jesus Christ sent forth his peace long ago, and it has continued to flow through generations of faithful followers. Today, his peace continues in you. The Peace of Christ is with you.

And also with you. Amen.

At this time in our worship, we invite you to share the Peace of Christ with others.

Feel free to share the peace with others nearby, or, if you are alone, give someone a call after worship!

OFFERING

<https://onrealm.org/gracerockhill/-/give/now>

ANTHEM

“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

arr. Bruce Greer

Jeremy Mims, piano

OFFERTORY RESPONSE (*Stand*)

"Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful"



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath - er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray together.

God of love, you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table. Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us to serve a world in need; for the sake of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those
who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.

The God of life, Father, ⁺ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

"Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

ELW 789



1 Sav - ior like a shep-herd lead us; much we need your ten - der care.
2 We are yours; in love be - friend us, be the guard-ian of our way;
3 You have prom-ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin - ful though we be;
4 Ear - ly let us seek your fa - vor, ear - ly let us do your will;



In your pleas-ant pas-tures feed us, for our use your fold pre-pare.
keep your flock, from sin de - fend us, seek us when we go a - stray.
you have mer - cy to re - lieve us, grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.
bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with your love our spir - its fill.



Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours.
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.



Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours.
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

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Pictures	<i>Members of Grace</i>
Sanctuary Candle	<i>Judy and Sig Huitt</i>
Altar Flowers	<i>Ingrid and Rolf Stroeh in memory of our son, Michael</i>

Click [here](#) for the latest Grace Notes

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